SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

His stan applies and a favor	***************************************			<b>.</b> .				
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS				
JEREMY RUSSELL				NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC.				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence o	County of Residence of Pirst Listed Defendant			
(c) Attorney's (Firm No	me, Address, Telephone Nu	ımber a <b>nd</b> Email Add	ress)		CONDEMNATION CASES, US	SE THE LOCATION OF THE		
Craig Thor Kimmel, E Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888				Attorneys (If Known)	NVOLVEÐ.			
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" is	n One Box Only)			RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff		
(7) t U.S. Government Plaintiff	28 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PT en of This State  O				
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	<ul> <li>4 Diversity</li> <li>(Indicate Citizenshi)</li> </ul>	p of Parties in Item III)	Citiz	en of Another State 💢 🗇	2			
				en or Subject of a  reign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation	36 36		
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box On		F	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES		
<ul> <li>□ 110 Insurance</li> <li>□ 120 Marine</li> <li>□ 130 Miller Act</li> <li>□ 140 Negotiable instrument</li> <li>□ 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>□ 151 Medicare Act</li> <li>□ 152 Recovery of Defauked</li> <li>□ 140 Student Loans (Excl. Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>□ 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>□ 190 Other Contract</li> <li>□ 190 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>□ 196 Franchise</li> <li>□ REAL PROPERTY</li> <li>□ 210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>□ 220 Forcelosure</li> <li>□ 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>□ 240 Torts to Land</li> <li>□ 245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>□ 290 All Other Real Property</li> </ul>	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS  441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare Limployment 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	PERSONAL INJUR'  362 Personal Injury- Med, Malpractice 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITIO 510 Motions to Vacat Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	TY	10 Agriculture 20 Other Food & Drug 25 Drug Related Scizure of Property 21 USC 881 30 Liquor Laws 30 R.R. & Truck 50 Airline Regs. 30 Occupational Safety/Health 20 Other LAHOR 10 Fair Labor Standards Act 10 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 30 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 10 Railway Labor Act 20 Other Labor Litigation 21 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act 22 Naturalization Application 33 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 55 Other Immigration Actions	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	400 State Reapportionment   410 Antitrust   430 Banks and Banking   450 Commerce   460 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   480 Consumer Credit   490 Cable/Sat TV   810 Selective Service   850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   890 Other Statutory Actions   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization Act   895 Freedom of Information   Act   895 Freedom of Information   401 Acts   400 Appeal of Fee Determination   Under Equal Access   10 Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		
OR 1 Original	cate Court  Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	Appellate Court	Reo	pened special	erred from			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON Brief description of ca Fair Debt Collect	use: ction Practices Ac	ct					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	Ç D	EMAND S	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: : Ø Yes 🗇 No		
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		1	DOCKET NUMBER			
Explanation:		<del> </del>	/.	/_				
1-14 DATE	-11	CICNATURE	EATTO	DNEY OF DECORD				

#### Case 2:11-cv-00258-CMR Document 1 Filed 01/14/11 Page 2 of 11

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA -- DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. 1/2 Warren Are Gillette WY 82716 Address of Plaintiff: Prudential Road Horsham. Address of Defendant: Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?  $_{Ycs}\square$ No W (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) No Z Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? Yes<sub>0</sub> RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Date Terminated: Case Number: \_ Judge Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes□ 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously  $_{\mathrm{Yes}}\square$ terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes 🗆 CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases; 1. 

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. D FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury Dones Act-Personal Injury 3. 

Assault, Defamation 4. □ Antitrust 4. 

Marine Personal Injury 5. Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. □ Labor-Management Relations 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 7. □ Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. 

Habeas Corpus 8. D Products Liability - Asbestos 9. 

Securities Act(s) Cases 9. D All other Diversity Cases □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. LAll other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C &/692 (Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) counsel of record do hereby certify: Parsuance Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(e)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000,00 exclusive of interest and costs: Relief other than monetary damages is sought. norney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (6/08)

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

## CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Jeremy Russell	:		CIVIL ACTION	
NCO Financial S	systems.Inc		NO.	
In accordance with the Civ plaintiff shall complete a Ca filing the complaint and serv side of this form.) In the designation, that defendant the plaintiff and all other pa to which that defendant bel	ase Management Track we a copy on all defenda event that a defendant shall, with its first app arties, a Case Managem ieves the case should b	Designation Form in nts. (See § 1:03 of the does not agree with earance, submit to the tent Track Designation e assigned.	all civil cases at the ti plan set forth on the re the plaintiff regarding clerk of court and ser n Form specifying the	me of everse g said ve on
SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CASE	MANAGEMENT TR	ACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus - Cases	brought under 28 U.S.	C. § 2241 through § 2	2255.	( )
(b) Social Security – Cases and Human Services de	requesting review of a nying plaintiff Social S	decision of the Secre Security Benefits.	tary of Health	( )
(c) Arbitration - Cases requ	uired to be designated t	or arbitration under L	ocal Civil Rule 53.2.	( )
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvexposure to asbestos.	ving claims for persona	ıl injury or property d	amage from	( )
(e) Special Management – commonly referred to a the court. (See reverse management cases.)	s complex and that nee	d special or intense m	anagement by	( )
(f) Standard Management -	- Cases that do not fall	into any one of the or	ther tracks.	(4)
1-14-11 Date 215-540-8888	Cruig Thur K Attorney-at-law 877-788-28	immel Jer	emy Russell Horney for mmelecreditle	<u> </u>
Telephone	FAX Number	E.	Mail Address	

(Civ. 660) 10/02

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 JEREMY RUSSELL, 4 Plaintiff 5 Case No.: v. 6 COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 7 JURY TRIAL Defendant 8 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 COMPLAINT 10 JEREMY RUSSELL ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., 11 alleges the following against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"): 12 13 14 INTRODUCTION 15 Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 1. 16 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 17 18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 19 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 20 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 21 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 22 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 23 3. Defendant conducts business and has an office in the Commonwealth of 24 25 Pennsylvania and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established. -1-

- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

#### **PARTIES**

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Gillette, Wyoming, 82716.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road in Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044.
- 9. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 16. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Beginning on or around March 2010, Defendant, its agents, employees, and servants, engaged in debt collection activities seeking payment from Plaintiff.
- 18. Defendant, its employees and servants harassed Plaintiff by making continuous calls to his cellular telephone number.
- 19. Plaintiff received phone calls and voice messages from Defendant on a number of occasions from the following phone number (866) 576-1447. The undersigned has confirmed that the number belongs to Defendant.
- 20. Defendant placed repeated calls to Plaintiff's telephone almost every day, causing Plaintiff to receive, at times, more than two (2) collection calls a day.
  - 21. Defendant has contacted Plaintiff several times after 9:00 o'clock in the evening.
  - 22. Defendant misrepresented to Plaintiff that amount of the debt allegedly owed.
  - 23. Defendant informed Plaintiff that legal action would be taken against him.
- 24. To date, despite threats to the contrary, Defendant has not filed a lawsuit or taken other legal action against Plaintiff, thereby indicating it did not intend to take the action previously threatened.
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendant sought to collect a debt from Plaintiff despite the fact that it had no knowledge of its validity.

26. Defendant's actions in attempting to collect the alleged debt were harassing, abusive and highly deceptive.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 28. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 29. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and

experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." <u>Id.</u> The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. <u>Clomon</u>, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

# COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 30. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Defendant violated of the FDCPA generally;
  - b. Defendant violated § 1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA when it contacted the Plaintiff at an unusual time or place or a time and place known or should be known to be inconvenient to the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt; specifically in the absence of knowledge of circumstances to the contrary, a debt collector shall assume that the convenient time for communicating with a consumer is after 8 o'clock antemeridian and before 9 o'clock postmeridian, local time at the consumer's location;
  - c. Defendant violated § 1692d of the FDCPA by harassing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt;
  - d. Defendant violated § 1692d(5) of the FDCPA, when it caused the Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to harass, annoy or abuse Plaintiff;

- e. Defendant violated § 1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
- f. Defendant violated § 1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken;
- g. Defendant violated § 1692e(10) of the FDCPA by using false representations or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
- h. Defendant violated § 1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
- Defendant acted in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failed to comply with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JEREMY RUSSELL, respectfully pray for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutor y damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

# I this case. DATED: 1-14-11 20.

DEMAND	FORJ	UKY	TRIAL	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, JEREMY RUSSELL, demands a jury trial in

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

Ву:

Craig Thor/Kimmel
Attorney ID # 57100
Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.
30 E. Butler Pike

Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (215) 540-8817

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com